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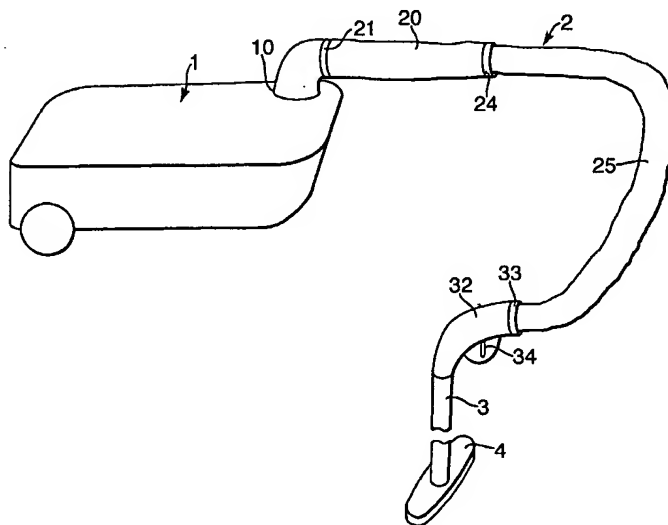
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(54) Title: **VACUUM CLEANERS AND HOSES**



(57) Abstract: A vacuum cleaner hose (2) has an inner flexible section (25) slidable within an outer flexible section (20). A rear end fitting (28) on the inner section prevents it being pulled from the outer section and seals with a coupling (24) at the forward end of the outer section (20) when fully extended. The inner section (25) has a natural extended length and is retracted for storage by closing a valve at the forward end of the hose (2) so that suction from the cleaner (1) causes a reduced pressure within the hose sufficient to retract the inner section. The inner section (25) is retained within the outer section (20) by engaging a coupling (33) at the forward end of the inner section with the coupling (24) at the forward end of the outer section.



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